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BOOK REVIEWS

THE ESSENTIALS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. By Amos S. Hershey, Ph.D. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

The author of this book has attempted the impossible task of incorporating into the same volume a text book for the student of international law and a scientific treatise for the specialist, and he has succeeded better than one would have thought possible. The text of the book is well written, presenting the principles of international law in a manner instructive and attractive to the student who makes his first acquaintance with the subject through the pages of the book, and to the member of the general public, who seeks authoritative information sufficient for an intelligent understanding of the problems of international relationship which are attracting increasing attention in the public press.

The history of international law is well worked out, and the sources thereof carefully explained. Copious references are made to the works of jurists of both the historical and the analytical schools, their views are intelligently contrasted and proper credit is given to each school for its influence upon the development of international law. That part of the book which deals with subjects that have not been codified by conventions is more interesting than the latter part; for the author, when dealing with subjects for which rules have been expressed in statutes, treaties and conventions, has adopted the course of copying the pertinent sections of the treaties and conventions verbatim. Legal phraseology never holds the attention of the reader as does language in ordinary use and the interest is bound to lag in the twelve chapters of the book which repeat verbatim the conventions of the Hague and London Conferences. It is, however, too much to expect a legal text book to be as interesting as a best seller.

The very complete bibliography which the book contains and which, we take it, constitutes the claim of the volume to be a treatise useful to the specialist, should prove very helpful to the teacher as a guide to the sources from which to select collateral reading for the students. It would, however, seem that the bibliography might be condensed with advantage since it is so voluminous as to require an extensive reading on the part of the teacher to determine the best authorities for his purpose.

The thoroughly pro-American attitude of the author is worthy of note. On all occasions and in all cases the United States was actuated by the very best of ideals and motives. Hall, in his book "International Law," remarked that "The United States has had the misfortune to supply almost all the modern instances in which a government has found itself unable to continue relations with a minister accredited to it." Hershey devotes nearly three full pages of closely printed notes to demonstrating by a discussion of the instances given that this "sneering reproach" is unwarranted. One wonders if it is an "essential of international law" that the United States should always be right.

It is not to be gathered from these adverse criticisms that the work is without great merit. In fact, its general excellence is such that the reviewer is driven to noticing these minor and perhaps immaterial flaws, if he is to say anything else than that the book is most eminently suited for the use of classes in International Law in our universities. It is not a great study of the subject, but it is an excellent text-book.

L. P. S.

THE LAW OF INTERSTATE COMMERCE. Franklin A. Judson, of the St. Louis Bar. Second Edition. Chicago: Flood & Co., 1912.

In this second edition of one of the two or three text books devoted exclusively to the subject of interstate commerce, Mr. Judson, himself a prominent attorney and practitioner before the Interstate Commerce Commission, has presented an enlarged treatment of his subject and incorporated into his original